

Research Team Seeks to Stem the 'Red Tide'

In 1972, organisms known as dinoflagellates appeared in abundance off the coast of Maine, releasing toxic substances that harmed marine life, adversely affected the state's economy—and killed people.

The popular name for this paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) was Red Tide. There have been no deaths from Red Tide since 1972, but scientists continue to study the problem because of its adverse effects on the economy, health, and the ecology. The problem costs Maine and the fishing industry some \$12 million a year in monitoring expenses and reduced seafood harvest.

One of the scientists studying Red Tide is Asst. Prof. Juliette Rooney-Varga of the Biological Sciences Department. UMass Lowell has received a \$317,000, three-year grant

from the National Science Foundation to support her research in this area.

Red Tide, a naturally occurring concentration of algae, gained its name because its dense concentrations, or "blooms," are visible as colored patches of ocean water. It's nothing new. As Rooney-Varga says, "It has been around for eons."

But, she adds, "It seems that the problem has been getting worse over the past three years or so, and we don't know why. It occurs annually but we don't know how bad it will be or where or when it will appear."

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▲ Asst. Prof. Juliette Rooney-Varga, third from left, has been awarded a \$317,000 National Science Foundation grant to study the Red Tide problem affecting the Maine fishing industry. Members of her research team include, from left, graduate students Suresh Jasti and Sumita Sood, and post-doctoral associate Mary Savin.

Pattavina Fights Crime by the Numbers

At first glance, her back-corridor office doesn't appear to be a crime-fighting headquarters. But, Asst. Prof. April Pattavina, now in her second year with Criminal Justice, hopes her considerable skills in crime analysis will be of assistance to police departments in the region.

Much of Pattavina's research so far has been in Boston where she collected data on thousands of neighborhood indicators during her time as a graduate student and visiting professor at Northeastern University. But as a Lowell native, she always longed to return.

"I'm quite happy to be back," she says. "I'm really quite committed to Lowell." While here, she hopes to assist with crime analysis for the city. She's already made inroads in Lawrence where she has provided some information to local authorities.

Using data on indicators like crime rates and property conditions, she explores questions such as, what impact does the occurrence of violent crime have on the way neighborhood youth perform on standardized tests? She found the greatest effect was on the performance of those in their early teens.

Pattavina hopes information drawn from urban neighborhood information systems will be used to help local crime enforcement agencies by indicating what crime prevention programs should be implemented or how they should be evaluated.

Crime-mapping is one of the tools at her disposal. By using Geographic Information Systems technology, Pattavina has determined correlations between such factors as crimes committed and the place of residence of a criminal.

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Music Department's New Project Has Strings Attached

Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, some 75 third and fourth graders from Lowell public schools gather at Durgin Hall to make a little noise.

Most of them will continue to do this for the next 10 years.



▲ Darcie Pickering is one of two undergraduate instructors in the UMass Lowell String Project, in which some 75 Lowell youngsters are learning to play violin, cello or viola.

The youngsters, participants in the newly established UMass Lowell String Project, will be learning how to play the violin, the viola or the cello.

Prof. Kay Roberts of the Music Department is director of the project. "We're thrilled about it," she says.

"It's something that's long overdue."

The University was one of 10 schools—out of 51 applicants—selected this year to take part in the National String Project Consortium, organized by the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) in conjunction with the National School Orchestra Association (NSOA). UMass Lowell's application was prepared and submitted by Roberts, in collaboration with the Office of University Advancement.

The consortium is built on the experience and success of the String Project at the University of South Carolina – Columbia. The objective is to teach youngsters to play string instruments and to train string teachers.

Dean Nancy Kleniewski says, "We're delighted to partner with the Lowell Public Schools to reach the children. Proposition 2 1/2 decimated arts education in Massachusetts and we lost a generation of students to the arts because they received no instruction in school.

"Now we have an opportunity to rebuild. We hope that in a very few years Lowell will have a youth orchestra," she says.

Prof. Roberts says, "The program is off to a roaring start. We had hoped to get 60 students this first year and, instead, 75 enrolled.

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Take Note

IRB Must Review Human Subject Research

Any research project involving human subjects, conducted by faculty, staff or students, must be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB), regardless of whether the research is funded, and whether or not it takes place on campus. Copies of the 2001-2002 IRB "Manual of Instructions and Procedures for Research Projects Involving Human Subjects" are now available in the Wannalancit Building at 600 Suffolk Street, second floor. During the semester, IRB manuals and diskettes will be available in the deans' offices, Graduate School Office, and Lydon and O'Leary libraries.

Love Canal Activist Lois Gibbs Will Speak Dec. 13

Lois Gibbs will speak to the campus community and the public on Dec. 13, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., in the Cumnock Hall. The event is sponsored by the Hazardous Waste Workers Training Program of The New England Consortium.

Gibbs was a 27-year-old housewife when she discovered that her child's elementary school had been built on top of a 20,000 ton, toxic-chemical dump in Niagara Falls, NY. She organized her neighbors into the Love Canal Homeowners Association and struggled more than two years for relocation of 900 families, opposed by business and government officials who insisted that the leaking toxic chemicals, including dioxin, were not the cause of high rates of health problems.

Gibbs is the founder and executive director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, an organization that assists grassroots groups with organizing and technical information. She is author of the book, "Love Canal: The Story Continues."

Gibbs has been featured in a multitude of print and broadcast interviews, and was the subject of a prime time movie. Among her many awards are the Goldman Environmental Prize, an honorary doctorate from the State University of New York, the Working Mother Award, and the Heinz Award.

Clean Production in Universities Conference to be Held in Mexico

Hermosillo, Mexico, will be the site for a conference, "Clean Production and Pollution Prevention at Universities: Inside Stories," Jan. 16-18, 2002. The conference is being organized by UMass Lowell's Work Environment Department and the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, in collaboration with the Industrial Engineering Department of the University of Sonora.

The conference will provide an exchange of ideas and experiences in implementing university-level programs for pollution prevention and clean production. A similar conference was held in Lund, Sweden, two years ago. More information is available on the conference Web site at www.industrial.uson.mx/conferencia.



Faculty and Staff Discuss Course Enhancements

▲ Faculty and staff gathered in the Faculty Lounge at Lydon Library Nov. 8 for a Conversation Dinner with a theme of "Course Enhancements Sampler: Community Technology & Applied Learning." The event, sponsored by the Council on Teaching, Learning, and Research as Scholarship, featured several talks, a panel discussion, and a question-and-answer period. Among the participants were, first row, from left, Asst. Prof. Nicole Champagne, Prof. Bob Gamache, Asst. Prof. Doreen Arcus, Asst. Prof. Michael Pierson, Reference Librarian Marion Muskiewicz; second row, from left, Assoc. Prof. James Canning, Sheila Riley-Callahan, director of academic services in the Centers for Learning, Mary Beaudry, director of the Faculty Teaching Center, and Prof. Gilbert Brown.

\$500,000 Grant Supports Research in Mexico and Brazil

The Department of Work Environment will be studying working conditions in Brazil and Mexico over the next five years, fueled by a recent \$500,000 grant from the National Institute of Health. The "Work and Health in Mexico and Brazil" project, initiated on Sept. 26, will help to root out unhealthy working conditions in the two countries and propose broad improvements to the system.

The program will be conducted through three Latin American universities where research has been increasingly focused on the rights and conditions necessary for workers in their countries: the

University of Campinas (Brazil), The Federal University of Pelotas (Brazil) and the University of Sonora (Mexico). Work Environment Associate Professor Raphael Moure-Eraso will head the program, working with Department Chair David Wegman, Prof. Charles Levenstein, and Senior Researcher Carlos Eduardo Siqueira.

This research follows other Work Environment projects in Latin America, such as short courses and seminars on industrial hygiene, work environment policy and ergonomics in Venezuela, Mexico, Trinidad and Chile.



Tsongas Shows Support for Leadership Forum

▲ Niki Tsongas, wife of the late former U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas, spoke before a recent meeting of the Greater Lowell Non-Profit Leadership Forum. Hosted by UMass Lowell's Center for Family, Work and Community (CFWC), the forum brings together executives from 30 Lowell organizations every month to discuss how they can best share resources and promote excellence in administration. For more information, call David Turcotte, CFWC, ext. 4677.

Biological Sciences Offers New Ecology Option

The Biological Sciences Department has introduced a new option—Ecology—for those students seeking a strong foundation in biology, but who also would like to specialize in ecology and environmental biology.

Asst. Prof. Juliette Rooney-Varga says, "The core courses are basically the same as for any other biology option except that other electives are available to them that count toward their major. These electives, which draw on the strengths of other departments, include courses such as

geographic information systems, hydrogeology, marine chemistry and environmental law."

The Ecology Option prepares students for graduate study or careers in areas such as public health, toxicology or bioremediation of pollutants.

More information is available by contacting Rooney-Varga (ext. 4715) or by accessing the Ecology Option Web site: www.uml.edu/dept/biology/ecology

Goodwin Issues Reminder of PeopleSoft Timelines

Sue Goodwin, vice chancellor for Administration and Finance, says the PeopleSoft implementation for the Financial Records System (FRS) is "on track" but reminds those involved of the timeline that must be observed.

"The changeover will be made cleaner and easier if we are all aware of the timetable and that we schedule our administrative tasks in sync with these key dates," Goodwin says.

The conversion of the five-campus University finance system, scheduled for next July, is the second phase of the PeopleSoft implementation. Phase One, Human Resources, takes place next month.

The financial conversion involves purchasing, accounts payable, budget, and general ledger functions.

The third and final phase will affect student administration.

Goodwin has called particular attention to seven "critical dates" for the Financial Records System changeover, the first being April 1 when "we will no longer be creating new account numbers in FRS."

Other dates on the list include:

- June 1— Acceptance of the go-live PeopleSoft system configuration.
- June 8 - Begin loading budgets for Fiscal 2003.
- June 14— Start closing down processing in FRS and enter the "Pre-Conversion Window" phase.
- By July 6— Will have closed FRS and all fiscal year processing associated with Fiscal 2002.
- July 7-14— "Conversion to Production Window" wherein all campuses activate PeopleSoft production routines.
- July 15— The "Go/No Go" decision is made that we are up and running in the new PeopleSoft environment.

"We will do our best to keep you informed and reminded of coming changes as the conversion approaches," Goodwin says, adding that anyone having questions should not hesitate to contact her or Comptroller Chuck Gisondi.

According to CS Alumnus and Entrepreneur, Commercial Development Venture Is Ideal Incubator

When asked why he's an entrepreneur, Gary Miliefsky replies immediately, "I'm a risk taker. Being an entrepreneur is a natural extension of the dream. If I didn't have the drive, this wouldn't be the greatest company in the world."

His latest venture is Excelcion, the next generation of network security. Part of the Research Foundation's Commercial Development Venture (CDV), Excelcion will provide the most reliable and fastest network security for banks, governments, large companies and online brokerages. Eight UMass Lowell computer science students, two graduate and the remaining undergraduate, are working with Miliefsky, chief technology officer, to develop this new technology.

"Kids are so good at being innovative—they're really ahead of the

curve," he said of his student employees who make up the bulk of his company.

Miliefsky, who founded direct e-commerce shopping tool QuickBuy at the height of the Internet boom, has been working on this idea for the past year and has been part of the CDV for a few months. The decision to come back to his alma mater, he's a 1990 computer science graduate and recipient of the 2000 Francis Cabot Lowell young alumni award, was an easy one since he found it to be a "really natural fit." Miliefsky feels strongly that the CDV is a "model of what an incubator should be."

Other incubators take 50 percent of the company, plus fees and stock options. According to Miliefsky, "When all is said and done, you don't own the company and you don't have a prayer of getting funding."

The CDV takes little ownership of

the company and instead offers intellectual support through an entrepreneur-in-residence, faculty and students. "It's a better, cleaner model with a small claim to the company," said Miliefsky.

"We are delighted to be working with Gary on his second start-up company. He works well with our students because he understands their desires to be successful," said Louis Petrovic, director of external funding, technology transfer and partnering at the Research Foundation. "The students, in turn, have done some amazing technical work."

Miliefsky hopes to leverage the experience he gained with the now defunct QuickBuy to make Excelcion a success. Targeted to officially launch in early 2002, Excelcion is currently operating in stealth mode.

Nursing Consortium Launched with Grant from President's Office

Last fall, UMass President William M. Bulger presented a 2001 President's Award of \$150,000 to support the Five Campus Nursing School Consortium.

The collaboration was proposed by the chair of the Nursing Department on the Lowell campus, Dr. May Futrell, and the deans of the Schools of Nursing at the other four UMass campuses. The UMass Lowell representative to the consortium is Dr. Barbara Mawn, associate professor of nursing.

The consortium is intended to address the Commonwealth's approaching shortage of nurses. Nationally, the nursing workforce is aging, enrollments in nursing programs are declining, and hospitals are calling for an increase in clinical care nurses. Futrell noted that there is also a shortage in nursing teachers, prompting the consortium to focus on graduate education.

"Nurses seeking graduate degrees tend to look for schools in their own communities," Futrell noted. "The UMass graduate programs are well positioned to address the need for advanced practice nurses."

In the last year, representatives of the five nursing programs have been working collaboratively to increase access to graduate programs, to develop a network that would facilitate research and teaching linkages among the programs, and to share resources across technology-enhanced programs.

"The focus for this year has been on programming and technology," said Mawn. Specific outcomes have



▲ Dr. Barbara Mawn



▲ Dr. May Futrell

included production of a system-wide index of graduate nursing programs, a directory of key nursing faculty, and training graduate faculty to use the various technologies of distance learning.

This spring, the Lowell and Dartmouth campuses will offer a collaborative course on Women's Health. Lowell campus professors are Assoc. Prof. Sharon George and Asst. Prof. Rosemary Theroux. The consortium has also helped facilitate a planned televised doctoral-level course in epidemiology.

In May, Mawn and Prof. LeeAnn Hoff organized a consortium conference that offered information on additional uses of technology to enhance collaborative courses. Conferees also identified six interest groups where linked teaching and research seemed likely: gerontology, psychiatric/mental health nursing, women's health, community health, chronic illness, and qualitative research.

"There is a very positive feeling about possible collaborations," Mawn said, "and consensus is that we will continue the five-campus dialogue the Consortium has begun."

Pinardi Paintings the Focus of a Solo Show

A one-woman show by Art Prof. Brenda Pinardi, "The Song of the Medicine Woman," will be featured at the Anderson Gallery at Bridgewater State College from late November through the end of 2001.

The show's paintings, most of them completed during Pinardi's spring 2001 sabbatical in New Mexico, will be shown a second time in September of next year, along with others of Pinardi's works, at a solo show at the Vorpall Gallery in San Francisco and New York.

Pinardi's work has also been featured recently in shows at the Nan Mulford Gallery in Rockport, Maine, H.I.W. Studioworks in Raymond, Maine and at the Cahoon Museum of Modern Art on Cape Cod.



▲ "The Presentation" by Brenda Pinardi, a 10" by 8" oil on canvas, will be included among the works to show at Bridgewater State College in December.

Research Team Seeks to Stem the 'Red Tide'

The toxic dinoflagellates affect mammals and fish, as well as shellfish. The toxins affect the central nervous system of fish, paralyzing them so that they can't breathe. Shellfish collect the toxins when they filter seawater to collect food—and humans ingest them when they eat the shellfish.

In her research, Rooney-Varga is collaborating with scientists at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the universities of Maine and New Hampshire.

"They've used a number of methods of study, including remote satellite scanning and water geochemistry," she says. "But they have never looked at the impact of bacteria, and that's what our study deals with."

"We've found that when certain bacteria that are native to the Gulf of Maine are added to the Alexandrium fundyense dinoflagellate, that it grows four times faster than it does otherwise."

"We want to find out which bacteria interact with Alexandrium and how they effect changes over time, and from place to place. We also hope to find a bacteria that will kill it."

Rooney-Varga and four of her graduate students—Mary Savin, Sumita Sood, Suresh Jasti and Mike Ferrier - will be sailing aboard a Canadian research vessel periodically over the next two years, analyzing the water and the composition of the bacteria community, and isolating new bacteria.

— JMcD

Collaborative Hears Report on Glenn Commission

Mathematics and science are inextricably linked to the nation's security interests" and "our young people are not performing well enough in mathematics and science to take firm command of their own futures," concludes a study titled, "Before It's Too Late: A Report to the Nation from the



National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century." The commission, commonly referred to as the Glenn Commission for its chair, Sen. John Glenn, argued that the most direct way to improve math and science achievement for all students is better math and science teaching.

Dr. Linda P. Rosen, former mathematics and science advisor to Sec. Richard Riley of the U.S. Department of Education, presented the commission's findings to a meeting of the Engineering in Mass Collaborative (EiMC). Our eighth-grade students lag behind other nations in mathematics, said Rosen, and by twelfth grade our students trail in both mathematics and in science.

At the same time, a significant percentage of mathematics and science teachers do not have even a minor in their subjects. The commission recommended a variety of short-term programs to help current teachers, such as summer seminars based on identified needs; and a

series of long-term changes to the profession, such as "inquiry groups" to establish teams of teachers.

Dr. Linda P. Rosen, left, was the keynote speaker at a meeting of the Engineering in Mass Collaborative (EiMC). Ray Stata, chairman of Analog Devices, Inc., is co-chair of EiMC and Krishna Vedula, dean of engineering at UMass Lowell, is the founder.

Rosen is currently the senior vice president for education at the National Alliance of Business, a nonprofit organization that works with business leaders to promote a competitive workforce through education reform and enhanced job training.

The Engineering in Mass Collaborative is an association of leaders of industry, higher education and schools to increase the number of engineering and science degrees granted in the state. The collaborative aims to identify, promote and scale up programs that are successful in encouraging students' interest in mathematics, science and engineering.

At the same time, a significant percentage of mathematics and science teachers do not have even a minor in their subjects. The commission recommended a variety of short-term programs to help current teachers, such as summer seminars based on identified needs; and a

Website Cited in "Science"

A bioinformatics Web site developed by scientists at UMass Lowell was cited in the Sept. 21 issue of "Science" magazine. The community site, <http://bioinformatics.org>, was inspired by the Open Source software movement and, according to "Science," "provides information on a wealth of free tools being developed for bioinformatics research."

The executive director of the site, Jeffrey W. Bizzaro, BS '97, currently a UMass Lowell Ph.D. candidate in chemistry, got the idea when he was a chemistry undergraduate. While completing a masters degree at Boston College, Bizzaro started an international collaborative organization, with over 1,000 member groups, committed to opening access to bioinformatics research projects, providing Open Source software for bioinformatics by hosting its development, and keeping biological information freely available.

Chemistry Prof. Kenneth Marx chairs the scientific advisory board of the site and hosts the community site through the University.

More than 40 scientific projects have been gathered on the site, from AcE, a gene finding accuracy evaluation tool and test dataset, to WAX, a general framework for tying together XML-based applications on the web. Visitors can download and use programs that are ready and submit feedback to developers.



▲ Graduate student Jeffrey W. Bizzaro, left, executive director of bioinformatics.org, confers with Chemistry Prof. Kenneth Marx, who hosts the servers for the international community site.

Easy Riders: Motorcycles Claim Their Place on Campus

Students come to UMass Lowell by bus, by train, in rattling cars spattered with window stickers, on foot in flip-flops and big black boots. Sometimes running late, often drinking coffee, they get here however they can.

But there is a sizable group of students for whom the ride to work is maybe a little more stylish, more exhilarating—certainly less likely to leave them with a free hand. These are the motorcycle commuters.

You can see their mounts awaiting them, propped on kickstands, outside Pinanski Hall: in front are the Honda CBRs, throwing a sharp glare off their bright yellow flanks. These sleek, muscular sportbikes are the most popular motorcycles on campus—despite costing around \$10,000. Behind the CBRs, in the second row, are the squatter, less aquiline models, the Harleys and Goldwings. All the riders know their place, says Steve Gordon, a junior computer science major.



▲ Student-owned motorcycles await their riders at a specially designated parking area outside Pinanski Hall.

"I don't know why they park that way. That's just the way it is," says Gordon, who rides a 1991 Kitana to school from Dracut—when the weather's nice. The bike makes his commute easier, he says, practically door-to-door.

"It's the difference between parking out by the fields and right up next to the building."

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Pattavina Fights Crime by the Numbers

"While violent crimes tend to be committed close to home," she says, "property crimes tend to occur a little farther away."

Though police often know where crime "hot spots" are, crime-mapping enables them to see patterns. "It opens up a dialogue within the police," she says, and enables them to look at things in a new way.

Crime-mapping using census track data can offer a descriptive look at a given geographic location. It also can be an analytical tool, helping law enforcement understand why crime is heavier in one place and not another. However, it doesn't provide all of the answers. "The census is good in breadth, but not necessarily depth," describes Pattavina. For that reason, information compiled by community agencies like school departments is also



▲ Asst. Prof. April Pattavina, Criminal Justice, uses her expertise in crime analysis to help local police departments get a clearer picture of where their efforts need to be directed.

important to examine in order to get a more complete picture.

Pattavina hopes that, while working in CJ, she helps to foster relationships with the community and with other parts of the University. She sees this collaboration as significant in tapping the potential of the field of crime analysis.

Alumnus deCastro Talks About Achieving the Impossible at Senior Executive Forum

Pop quiz: What engineering achievement that changed the world will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2005? Answer: Einstein's theory of relativity. The Wright Brothers' first flight and the first transatlantic radio transmission will also celebrate 100th anniversaries in the next couple of years.

At the recent Senior Executive Forum, Edson deCastro, founder and former CEO of Data General Corp. and alumnus of Lowell Technical Institute ('60), used the pop quiz of engineering feats over the last 100 years to keep his audience thinking and to point out how far we have advanced technologically in a short period of time.

Engineers, he said, achieve the impossible. He listed flight, space travel, and computer chips the size of a button as examples. The achievements, however, did not come without stumbling blocks.

DeCastro recounted several large companies in the last 50 years that have passed over new technologies or good ideas, such as the computer, video recorder and laser, only to have the same technology or ideas brought to market by start-up companies. This he attributes to engineers not holding top positions within companies and



▲ Edson deCastro '60, center, with deans Katherine Verreault, Management, and Krishna Vedula, Engineering, talked about how humans have achieved the "impossible" over the last 100 years because of engineering feats at a recent Senior Executive Forum sponsored by the College of Management and the Francis College of Engineering.

not being able to convey ideas to key decision makers.

"Engineers need to become proficient in persuasive arguments that take place in the boardroom," said deCastro, who recommends that communications and management courses be components of an engineering education. This, partnered with an entrepreneurial attitude, will ensure another 100 years of achieving the impossible.

Sponsored by the College of Management and the Francis College of Engineering, the Senior Executive Forum is a series of six guest speakers sharing insights from their experience and conveying what the industry is looking for in the future workforce.

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Music Department's New Project Has Strings Attached

"And it's exciting to see how many people have gotten involved to help with the project. The parents have been very supportive, and the Lowell schools are providing a monitor to check the students in and out of every session," she says. (This is an important function, she points out, because the students "are only 8 years old.")

The Lowell schools also are underwriting the first year's tuition—\$60 for each child. Each university that participates receives an ASTA/NSOA Knight Foundation grant of \$10,000 a year for 10 years, which is matched by the host institution.

In addition to Roberts, the project has a master teacher and two undergraduate instructors.

The master teacher is Susan Turcotte Gavriel, a UMass Lowell graduate and member of the Music

Department's adjunct faculty. The student instructors are Darcie Pickering and Andrew Light.

About half the students are studying violin, while about 25 are taking the viola, and the rest the cello. During the first year, all the youngsters are being taught in one group. Next year they will be separated into classes by instrument, and, the third year, they will receive individual lessons.

A new class will enter the program each year.

"One of the things I was struck by and one of the reasons they started the project," says Roberts, "is that there are very few minority string players throughout the United States. Lowell has a large minority population and this is reflected in our project."

—JMCD



Salon Group Hears About the Deerfield Raid

◀ Reference Librarian Ron Karr, right, discussed "Life and Death on the Massachusetts Frontier: Another Look at the Deerfield Raid, 1704" at the most recent session of The Salon, a colloquium in the fine arts, humanities and social sciences. With Karr is Asst. Prof. Tony Szczesiul, who coordinated the event held in Coburn Hall.



Dinner Conversation Offers a Course in Diversity and Student Learning

▲ Debra Humphreys, vice president for Communications and Public Affairs of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, seated left, spoke at a recent Dinner Conversation in Alumni Hall. She discussed "Diversity and Student Learning: Progress Made and Paths to Follow." Other participants included, standing from left, Prof. John Catallozzi, Education; Robert Tamarin, dean of sciences, College of Arts and Sciences; Lan Pho, director, Council on Diversity and Pluralism; Denia Gibson, junior, Management; and Stephen Coggs, director, ALANA Student Center. To Humphrey's left are Michaela Colombo, director, Bilingual Program, Methuen School Dept.; and Prof. Anne Mulvey, Psychology.

CITA Working Conference Tackles a Diverse Mix of Topics

A Cambodian dance project, a health sciences academy, a student writing project and a minority worker-training program could be the topic list at a few different academic conferences. However, these were just a part of the program of the University's "Fifth Working Conference: Diversity, Culture and Sustainable Development," jointly sponsored by the Committee on Industrial Theory and Assessment and the Council on Diversity and Pluralism.

More than 100 attended the conference held in Alumni Hall on Nov. 1. David Turcotte, program manager of the Center for Family, Work and Community (CFWC) offered reflections on social capital in immigrant and refugee communities. Robert E. Layne, program coordinator of the Worcester Pipeline Collaborative, described the Health Sciences Academy in the Worcester Public Schools. Coordinators of the UMass Lowell Environmental Justice on Brownfield Sites, Ann Bratton and Marian Flum, detailed the contribu-

tions of the project's worker training program in Lowell.

Prof. Nina Coppens, Psychology, provided an "Evaluation of the Angkor Youth Dance Program." Prof. Diana Archibald, English, read a student account of an interview with a Lowell senior citizen. Prof. Doreen Arcus, Psychology, reported on "Children and Sustainability." A recap of "Lowell Women's Week: Creating Public Space for Women's Lives and Cultures" was provided by Prof. Anne Mulvey, Psychology; Irene Egan of Visiting Nurses of Greater Lowell; and Audrey Ambrosino, public information officer of the Lowell National Historical Park.

Linda Silka, principal investigator, and Cheryl West, program manager, both of the CFWC,



▲ Cheryl West, community consultant for the Center for Family, Work and Community, chats with Prof. Jeffrey Gerson, Political Science, during the Fifth Working Conference.

described the results of a six-month project recording traditions of community preservation in Lowell, a joint project of the Center and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. And, Profs. Meg Bond and Jean Pyle of the Center for Women and Work summarized the results of their survey research on "Women-Owned Busi-



▲ Prof. Nina Coppens, Psychology, describes the evaluation she performed of the Angkor Youth Dance Program at the Fifth Working Conference held Nov. 1.

ness in Lowell: Understanding the Local in a Broader Context."

Plans for next year's conference are already underway. One theme under consideration is "Supporting Public Health and a Healthy Society."

For further information on this year's conference, contact Dr. Lan Pho, ext. 4332 or Dr. John Wooding, ext 4257.

Meeting Draws Grant Recipients from All Over the Nation

At a time when people are hesitant to travel great distances from their homes, it's extraordinary that one meeting at UMass Lowell in October drew over 100 people from as far away as Alaska and Florida.

The "Environmental Justice and Community-Based Participatory Research Grantee Meeting," was sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and brought together the 2001 grant recipients. Grantees got a chance to report on their progress to date and discuss plans for the future.

Break-out sessions offered an opportunity to share ideas and concerns about community outreach, coalition building, environmental policy, industrial pollution, pesticides, ethical issues in gene-environment research and increased occurrence of asthma. Walking tours were also provided to the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, the Metta East-West Health Center and the Acre Redevelopment/Brownfield Areas.

Among the grantees was a collaborative project among the Coalition for a Better Acre, Lowell Community Health Center and the Center for Family, Work and Community's



▲ Frank Carvalho, executive director of the Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell, prepares a group of conference attendees for a walking tour of Lowell's Acre neighborhood.

(CFWC) Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment program. The project, "New Ventures," is under the direction of co-principal investigators, Linda Silka, co-director, CFWC, and Rafael Moure-Eraso, co-director, Public Health Engineering and Policy Initiative.

Since first receiving NIEHS funding in 1995, UMass Lowell has worked solely within the city's Cambodian and Laotian communities.

"New Ventures" is extending the research and partnering activities to include all refugee groups in Lowell.

The meeting was hosted on campus by the CFWC and took place throughout the Wannalancit Mills.

NPR's Curwood Delivers Biggy Lecture, Addresses Pollution

Steve Curwood, host of NPR's "Living on Earth" was on the UMass Lowell Campus on Oct. 25, to deliver the annual M. Virginia Biggy Lecture.

Curwood gave his talk, entitled "The Poisoned Mind: The Effects of Pollution on Learning and Behavior," in the Alumni Lounge of the Lydon Library.

Curwood has worked as a journalist for WBUR-FM Boston, WGBH-TV Boston, and at the Boston Globe, where he shared a Pulitzer Prize in 1975 for education reporting. His current show, "Living on Earth," airs on more than 280 National Public Radio affiliates in the United States.

Virginia Biggy, who attended the lecture, is a professor emeritus at UMass Lowell, and former dean of the College of Education.



▲ Journalist and Virginia M. Biggy lecturer Steve Curwood, second from right, joined former Dean Biggy; Frederick Sperounis, vice chancellor for University Relations and Development, right; and Dean Donald Pierson, of the Graduate School of Education, after the lecture in Alumni Hall.

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CSCE Master's of Education Program Listed Among "Best of the Online Graduate Programs" in "U.S. News"

U.S. News & World Report's annual America's Best Colleges issue, dated October 15, has a new category: e-learning. Responding to the growing trend of higher education institutions offering courses online, "U.S. News" developed the e-Learning directory to help "navigate this expanding universe."

UMass Lowell Distance Education's new master's degree in educational administration is listed in the "Best of the Online Graduate Programs" section and is the only institution in New England included. The online graduate program directory looks at accredited advanced degree programs in business, engineering, education, public health and library science.

UMass Lowell Distance Education, part of the Division of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education (CSCE), is the largest in New England, offering more than 80 courses each semester in a wide variety of disciplines. Complete degree programs in Educational Administration, Information Technology and Liberal Arts, as well as 10 certificates, can be earned online.

"Our growing distance learning programs are in response to the expanding need of professionals to have flexible and convenient education," said Jacqueline Moloney, dean of CSCE. "To be recognized nationally for the quality of programs we have been offering for more than five years is a great honor."



▲ Judith Coughlin,

Funding from Visa Program Helps Train Workers at Home

Judith Coughlin, director of the Northeast Skills Training Project/H1-B Grant at the UMass Lowell Labor Extension Program (LEP), described the project at a recent seminar in O'Leary Library.

The \$2.4 million grant, awarded to the Communications Workers of America Local 1365 by the Department of Labor, was one of only three unions nationally awarded a grant. The funds are being used to provide worker training at Lucent Technologies and Ametek Aerospace to provide "ladders" to higher-skilled positions.

Coughlin, who appeared with Paul Babin, on-site grant coordinator for Ametek, presented as part of the Regional Economic and Social Development Department seminar series sponsored by the Center for Industrial Competitiveness and the LEP.

Sloan Grant Enables Faculty to Learn Online How to Develop Distance Learning Courses

The Division of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education has trained faculty how to migrate courses online since they started offering distance learning courses over five years ago. Dean Jacqueline Moloney and her staff are taking the training a step further by putting their program, "Course Redesign for the Web," online. The Sloan Foundation has contributed a grant for \$45,000 that will fund faculty stipends to migrate a course online.

"What better way to have faculty understand the technology and the students' experience than to take an online course themselves?" said Moloney. "We believe that faculty who take the course online will be better prepared to teach online than their counterparts who take it on campus."

The six-week online training pilot program will help 20 faculty adapt course content for a distance learning format, complete a course outline and develop the "Start Here" section. The program will provide both technical and pedagogical skills development needed by faculty to migrate 10 courses online.

The courses will apply to the three new master's programs in educational administration, clinical pathology, and photonics and optoelectronics.

"There is great satisfaction at Sloan for the excellent results Dean Moloney and Chancellor Hogan have achieved in distance education at Lowell," said Frank Mayadas, project manager of the Sloan Foundation. "UMass Lowell is a valued member of the national Sloan Consortium of schools offering online education."



Student Nurses Raise Funds

▲ On Oct. 2 on South Campus, and again at their open house Oct. 14, the Student Nurses Association and members of Nursing's class of 2003 sold patriotic ribbons and badges in support of local families affected by the Sept. 11th attacks. Their efforts raised \$800, which was matched by Lowell's Enterprise Bank and Trust. At the conclusion of the fund-drive, Enterprise President Richard Main, right, made the bank's presentation to UMass Lowell nursing students—from left—Paula Gil, Jose Mercado and Melissa Mancuso.

Third Issue of On-line Regional Culture Magazine to be Launched Dec. 4

The campus community is invited to celebrate the launch of the third issue of "The Bridge Review: Merrimack Valley Culture," the region's only Web-based culture magazine. The event is set for Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. in the O'Leary Library auditorium (Room 222) on the South Campus.

The program will feature readers and speakers whose work is represented in both the past and current issues. In addition, the audience is invited to join in a lively discussion about plans for future issues. A reception will follow the program.

"The Bridge Review" explores the interwoven concepts of place, nature and culture in the context of the watershed of the lower Merrimack Valley. The publication features writing, visual art, history and folklife features,

research materials, and other creative work. Visit the redesigned site at ecomunity.uml.edu.

Campus contributors to date include Assoc. Prof. Hillary Holladay, English Department; librarian Martha Mayo, Center for Lowell History; instructor Mark Cote of the Sociology Department; Chath pierSath, Center for Family, Work, and Community; and Prof. Charles Levenstein, Work Environment Department. The co-editors are Assoc. Prof. Charles Nikitopoulos, Psychology Department, and Paul Marion, assistant director for community relations.

Among the dozens of regional contributors are the following: singer-songwriter Bob Martin of Lowell, author Jane Brox of Dracut, the photo-documentary team Higgins and Ross of Lowell, artist Susan Kapuscinski

Gaylord and poet Rhina Espailat of Newburyport,

fiction writer Paul Richardson of Dracut, poets Mark Schorr and Helena Minton of Andover, photographers John Boutselis and Kevin Harkins of Lowell, writer and translator George Chigas of Chelmsford, and painters Janet Lambert-Moore, Richard Marion, and Bernard Petruziello of Lowell.

In 2000, "The Bridge Review" was cited as an example of the nation's top 100 "Best Practices" by Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, a national movement to connect universities and the communities they serve through the arts and humanities.

"The Bridge Review" is a feature



of Ecommunity, an on-line service of the Web Office in the Office of Communications and Marketing. Ecommunity offers a presence on the World Wide Web for community-oriented nonprofit organizations and agencies in the region.

The publication is funded in part by the Council on Diversity and Pluralism of UMass Lowell. Past support has been provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts, Human Services Corporation of Lowell, and the Lowell Cultural Council, a local agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The magazine has evolved from a University-community collaboration begun in connection with the Community Lab of Associate Professor David Landrigan, Psychology Department.



Rep. Garry Recognized for Athletic Fields Assistance

▲ Athletics Director Dana Skinner, left, and Director of Government Relations Renae Lias Clafey, right, recently presented Rep. Colleen Garry with a Janet Lambert-Moore print commemorating the opening of the revamped athletic fields behind Costello Gym. Garry, class of '85, worked closely with Lowell's State House delegation—Sen. Steven Panagiotakos and Reps. Thomas Golden, David Nangle and Kevin Murphy—to ensure funding was made available to improve women's athletics facilities on campus.

Rep. Marty Meehan Discusses Response to Terrorist Attacks

In a candid talk on campus with UMass Lowell students, faculty and staff, U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan, class of '78, said he believes the Bush Administration is on the right track in the U.S. response to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"The President has brought together a national security team that is better than any President in my lifetime has had," he said. "Very prudent national security steps have been taken."

Meehan noted that as a member of the Armed Services Committee, he is party to regular briefings from Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and others on the national security team. He said one thing that distinguishes this war is the amount of information that is available through the media today. He said the best briefings result when he sifts through all the information that is out there—"CNN, the 'New York Times,' the 'Wall Street Journal,' about five newspapers"—and asks the Administration officials which reports are accurate and which are not.

Meehan also sits on the Judiciary Committee. In that role, he has helped fashion the anti-terrorism bill that recently passed Congress. "We balance civil liberties with the need to

know," he said. He pointed out that the House bill included a provision to "sunset" the new law in four years. "As a country, we've seen periods of time when this type of power has been abused," he said, referring to former FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover's politically motivated surveillance of



▲ Fred Lewis, left, professor of Political Science, invited Congressman Marty Meehan, class of '78, to speak to his students and the University community about the country's response to the terrorist attacks.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As far as balancing freedom versus security, Meehan said, "I don't think life in the U.S. will ever be quite the same."

Meehan's presentation was organized by Fred Lewis, professor of Political Science. Political science and criminal justice students were encouraged to attend.

Author, Former Stanford Athlete, Addresses Students on Women's Sports

Mariah Burton Nelson, a former athlete at Stanford University, award-winning author and *New York Times* journalist, addressed an Oct. 25th gathering of UMass Lowell student-athletes, as well as members of Political Science Prof. Jeffrey Gerson's "Politics in Sports" class, on a series of issues relating to women in sports.

Nelson, whose visit was sponsored by the UMass Lowell Athletic Department, the Council on Diversity and Pluralism and the Office of the Provost, is the Author of "Embracing Victory—Life Lessons in Competition and Compassion," "The Unburdened Heart," and "The Stronger Women Get, The More Men Love Football." Her appearance, which took place in O'Leary Library and was open to all

students, faculty and staff, was intended, at least in part, to mark the designation of the 2001-2002 academic year as a celebration of women's sports.



▲ Mariah Burton Nelson, right, author, journalist and former Stanford athlete, addressed a gathering Oct. 25 on the subject of women in sports. She is shown here with Political Science Prof. Jeffrey Gerson, who teaches a course, "Politics in Sports," and with Senior Associate Athletic Director Joan Lehouillier.



Women's History Conference Explores Immigrant Women's Contributions to Culture in the New World

▲ More than 150 teachers, faculty and national park employees attended the 14th annual Lowell Conference on Women's History, entitled "Coming to America: Immigration and Industrialization," held at the Tsongas Industrial History Center. Keynote speaker Hasia Diner, the Paul and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History at New York University, discussed her new book, "Hungering for America: Italian, Irish, and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration." Ten workshops and a walking tour of Lowell explored various aspects of how women changed American culture while adapting to it themselves. Pausing during the day's activities were Sheila Kirschbaum, school liaison for the Tsongas Industrial History Center; Sheli Turocy, workshop presenter and project assistant at the Tsongas Center; Prof. Diner; Peter O'Connell, director of the Tsongas Center; and Dave McKean, presenter from the archives of St. Patrick Parish and a Nashua elementary school teacher.



Levenstein Receives Cabot Lowell Faculty Award

◀ Donald Rizzo, executive director of University Advancement, presents Prof. Charles Levenstein of the Work Environment Department with the Francis Cabot Lowell Faculty Award at the Awards dinner last month. The dinner was part of Fall Festival at UMass Lowell, the third annual weekend-long event for alumni, family and friends. This year's Festival, which included reunions, homecoming and Family Day, drew nearly 1,000 people to the campus.

Math Challenge Participants Divide and Conquer

Fourteen high school teams from across the region, many accompanied by their own cheering sections and pep bands, competed in Math Challenge 2001, sponsored by the UMass Lowell Department of Mathematical Sciences and the Admissions Department. About 400 students and their teachers visited the campus, choosing from a variety of campus tours before the main event.

In the fast-paced, Jeopardy-style competition, Lexington High School took first place, Swampscott High School placed second and Bishop Guertin High School was third. Billerica High School's team was given the best team spirit award.



▲ Fast action prevails in the competition as Mathematical Sciences Dept. Profs. Alan Doerr and Guntram Mueller, standing, from left, and Administrative Assistant Danielle White, keep score for the 14 high school teams.



◀ Welcoming high school students to campus for Math Challenge and campus tours were, from left, Jennifer Decker, assistant director of Admissions; James Lyons-Weiler, assistant professor of Biological Sciences; and Robert Tamarin, dean, Division of Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences.

"Materials Matter" Honored at Book Signing

By paying more attention to the materials that we develop and the way in which we use them, we could pay less attention to their impacts once they are released to the environment and the people are exposed to them," writes Work Environment Prof. Kenneth Geiser, in his book, "Materials Matter: Toward a

Sustainable Materials Policy," published by MIT Press.

Managing toxic materials and cleaning up hazardous wastes are costly approaches to improving environmental and human health, argues Geiser, who is director of the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute and the Center for

Environmentally Appropriate Materials, and co-director of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production. Government agencies are empowered to regulate the nearly 70,000 substances that are used in industry, but scientific information on their health and environmental effects is scanty and, even if it were complete, the task of regulating thousands of

individual substances would be unmanageable.

A more efficient and effective approach would be to focus on the materials and not the exposure. As Geiser puts it, "We could simply try to produce safer materials and use them more carefully."



▲ A new book was the subject of a celebration and book signing recently. Discussing "Materials Matter: Toward a Sustainable Materials Policy," published by MIT Press, were, from left, Provost Robert Wagner; David Kriebel, co-director of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production; Kenneth Geiser, the book's author; and Carl Lawton, director of the Massachusetts Bioprocess Development Center.

UMass Lowell, Harvard's Dana-Farber, Join Forces in the Fight Against Working-Class Smoking

For close to 20 years now, the combined resources of Madison Avenue and the federal government have been allied in their drive against teenage smoking. As for adult smokers, especially those with the means to afford them, there have been almost too many therapies to list: hypnosis, pills, classes, self-help groups, chewing-gum, skin patches, motivational videos.

The results have been predictable. Among teenagers and professionals, smoking is down. Especially among the affluent and college-educated: only about one out of five of today's white-collar workers is still a smoker, according to a study by the Center for Disease Control.

But among blue-collar workers and members of the service sector, particularly those at the lower end, the numbers are nowhere near as good. Forty percent of truck drivers continue to smoke, as do 46 percent of waiters and waitresses, 60 percent of roofers—36 percent of blue-collar workers overall, nearly double the incidence among the nation's white-collar class.

Anti-smoking efforts in the U.S. have been largely targeted toward the upper incomes, says Elizabeth Barbeau, director of the newly-formed Consortium on Organized Labor and Tobacco Control (COLT), "while other workers have been left behind."

COLT, which was created earlier this year with a \$1.6 million grant from the American Legacy Foundation (which in turn is funded through lawsuit settlements against the tobacco industry) is a joint effort of Harvard University's Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the Department of Work Environment at UMass Lowell.

In pursuit of its mission—"to reduce class-based health disparities due to high levels of tobacco use" among lower-income working families—COLT members work with labor unions to educate workers on the dangers of tobacco and second-hand smoke.

Among the group's first initiatives is an anti-smoking campaign targeted at young blue-collar employees through the unions' training and apprenticeship programs.

Union members need to understand that "smoking can not only ruin your health, but shorten your career," says Terence O'Sullivan, general president of the 800,000-member Laborers International Union of

North America and a member of COLT's advisory board. Other unions involved in the effort include the Professional Firefighters Union, the Building and Construction Trades Council of California, and the National Education Association.

The role of UMass Lowell and Dana Farber, in addition to their research functions, is twofold: to assist public-health and anti-smoking groups in working with unions, and to provide technical help to unions interested in establishing tobacco-control programs for their members.

"We're saying to tobacco control that your program hasn't been working with blue-collar people," says UMass Lowell Professor of Work Environment and consortium co-director Charles Levenstein. "Blue-collar workers try to quit just as frequently as white-collars, but are not as successful. So we think it has something to do with the kind of support they get."



▲ UMass Lowell Prof. Charles Levenstein, co-director of the Consortium on Organized Labor and Tobacco Control.

Wegman to Chair National Academy of Sciences Committee

Profs. David Wegman and Charles Levenstein, of the Work Environment Department, have been named members of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Health and Safety Needs of Older Workers. Dr. Wegman will chair the committee. Wegman previously served as chair of the National Academies Committee on Health and Safety Implications of Child Labor.

The new committee will investigate the older adult workforce over the next 20-30 years, including the changing nature of work and its implications for workers over the age of 50. The members will identify policy and research issues that

should be addressed in the coming decade regarding the health and safety of older workers. They will consider the effects, if any, of inappropriate working conditions and of longer working lifetimes on health, as well as the relationship of these conditions to retirement patterns. The committee will prepare a consensus report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations, to be issued at the end of the project.

The committee is sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services: National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and National Institute on Aging, and the Archstone Foundation.

Psychology Prof. Dinh Draws on Personal Experience to Study Immigrant Adjustment

Nature verses nurture is an age-old dilemma, but Assistant Psychology Professor Khanh Dinh is adding another element to the debate—culture. Reflecting on her own experience as a refugee from Vietnam, she wonders if she would be the same person had her family stayed in Vietnam. She says, “I can say that I wouldn’t be, but I can’t say how I would be different.”

Dinh was six when she, eight siblings, her parents and grandmother stowed away on a cargo ship the eve before the Vietnam government collapsed in 1975. They left behind her eldest sister and her husband. The choice to flee the country was clear: Dinh’s parents were known for anti-communist activities.

“If we didn’t leave, my father would have been in ‘re-education’ [concentration] camps. He probably would have died there,” said Dinh. “It was very chaotic. Looking back, it’s like another life.”

After being rescued by the U.S. Navy, Dinh’s family was placed in several refugee camps until two churches in Minnesota agreed to sponsor them. During her ten years there, Dinh was forced to make the challenging adjustment to American culture. It was during this difficult time in her youth when her career choice took root—to study immigrants’ acculturation (how the new country changes values, cognition, beliefs) process and, eventually, help make the adjustment smoother for

other immigrants.

“It’s fascinating to see people’s personalities change from culture. Biological and cultural factors have a tremendous impact on how our personality is shaped,” said Dinh, who received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Washington, as well as her bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Dinh has been studying the acculturation of immigrant families for nearly a decade. Most recently, Dinh worked with Mexican-Americans at Arizona State University as a post-doctoral fellow. While some of her work there is continuing, Dinh is excited to be in Lowell where her primary population will be Southeast Asian immigrants.

“I wanted to be at university with a more clinical/community focus, with faculty that work well together, with a campus that values the community it’s located in and importance of diversity,” said Dinh. UMass Lowell seems to fit on all accounts.

Dinh, whose particular interest is in prevention, will launch a study on the conflicts between parents and children—a void in the current research, but one instrumental to cultural adjustment. She sees a three-tiered approach, first developing a measure, then testing the measure and, finally, using the measure to create a prevention program. Dinh plans to form focus groups of Southeast Asian UMass Lowell students and potentially high school students

to assess where individuals are in the adjustment process in terms of their health and mental health needs.

While she looks for funding sources, Dinh is focusing on teaching abnormal psychology and getting her footing. Over the long-term, the Psychology Department has asked her to develop a course on diversity issues for the graduate program to increase awareness among students. Dinh explains, “Our country’s becoming more and more diverse in many ways. This is the population our students will be working with.”



▲ Prof. Khanh Dinh, a new psychology faculty member, discusses acculturation issues at a recent Psychology Department Colloquium. Dinh, who fled Vietnam with her family at age 6, has been studying how immigrants adapt to a new culture for nearly a decade.

Botman Paints a Picture of Women in Contemporary Egypt

University of Massachusetts Vice President for Academic Affairs Selma Botman, a scholar on contemporary Egypt, analyzes the place of women in Egyptian society over the last century, at a lecture sponsored by the Center for Women and Work.

Speaking before a packed audience in the 5th floor seminar room in O’Leary Library, Botman described the three distinct socio-political stages in Egypt since the end of the First World War, and the changing view of women and citizenry during that tumultuous time.

“It’s a wonderful country and a wonderful century in which to study,” Botman said.



▲ Selma Botman,

Lowell Alum to Coordinate Honors Program, Assist in Advising

Laurie Tirado, a Lowell native and 1993 graduate of the University, joined the staff of her alma mater early this month, taking on responsibilities for both the Honors program and the Advising Center. Tirado is the new coordinator of the honors program, overseeing all the day-to-day operations and directing the five student workers in the office.

In addition, she will assist Susan Lemire, coordinator of Language and Learning Strategies, and Sheila Riley-Callahan, director of Academic Services, in the Centers for Learning. Tirado, who majored in Spanish, was a peer adviser herself when she was a student. Before taking this job, she was a regional manager for Texaco. Her experience prepared her very well for the position, said Honors Program director Stephen Pennell, professor of Mathematics.



▲ Laurie Tirado, center, is the new coordinator of the Honors Program, working with program director Stephen Pennell, and Sheila Riley-Callahan, director of Academic Services in the Centers for Learning.

“What stuck out about her was her organizational skills,” Pennell said. “Also her energy and enthusiasm, and her experience in the advising program.”



Duggan Receives Francis Cabot Lowell Staff Award

▲ (Family and friends rally around Ellen Duggan, dean of student services, who received the Francis Cabot Lowell Staff Award at a banquet Saturday night. In the front row, from left, are: Brenda Evans, associate director of student services, Dean Duggan, Janice Skryness, administrative assistant in Student Services, Mildred Duggan, Dean Duggan’s aunt; middle row, from left: Tammy Millette, administrative assistant in Student Services, Elizabeth Donaghey, director of Disability Services, Patricia Reardon, Campus Police Chief, Bunny Murphy, compliance manager in Affirmative Action, and Mary Connelly, director of Student Activities; top: Barbara Lyman, director of Affirmative Action Compliance and Equal Opportunity. The Frances Cabot Lowell Awards dinner, on the night of Saturday, Oct. 13, was part of Fall Festival weekend at UMass Lowell. On Friday, the class of 1921 assembled for the Golden Anniversary Luncheon, joined by graduates from 1920 and before. Also on Saturday was a luncheon for all alumni, followed on Sunday by the Leo King Scholarship Dinner.

Note Worthy

Asst. Prof. Patrick Scollin of the Health and Clinical Science Department presented a paper at the 19th annual International Nursing Computer and Technology Conference in Denver recently.

The paper, titled "A Study of Factors Related to the Use of Online Resources by Nurse Educators," described the findings of a study of the use of online resources by nurse educators, and the factors that support or hinder those uses for scholarly pursuits.

The industry journal "Mass High Tech" has named **Engineering Dean Krishna Vedula** a "High Tech All Star," one of 13 selected from more than 150 nominees for this annual honor.

The recipients were chosen, the publication says, "for their energy, their vision and their leadership."

Vedula was recognized for founding the Engineering in Mass Collaborative, establishing partnerships

between UMass Lowell and industry, and for persuading companies to donate equipment and software worth millions of dollars to the University.

Three UMass Lowell professors—**Drs. Ted Namm, Alease Bruce** and **Barbara Cocanour**—were among the presenters at the 15th annual meeting of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society in Maui this past June.

Both Bruce and Cocanour presented posters—Bruce's "A Case Brings an Unexpected Discovery to the Laboratory," and Cocanour's "Using Case Studies in a Clinical Anatomy Course" and "An Introduction to Herbal Medicine: Medicinal Plants on Stamps"—while Namm's presentation was the workshop, "Modern Molecular Genetics—How It All Works."

Also at the meeting, it was announced that Cocanour had been elected secretary of the Society, with a seat on its Board of Directors.



Halloween Hoedown

◀ Dressed up for the annual physical plant Halloween party and soup cook-off, retired administrative assistant **Fran Broderick** moseys through her old office in Cumnock Hall with payroll administrator **Peggy St. Peter**.

Connelly Honored for Contributions

Mary Connelly, UMass Lowell director of Student Activities, was announced recently as winner of her New England region's Distinguished Service Award, presented annually at the regional conference of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI).

The award, presented to Connelly at a October 27th banquet, is the highest honor given by the ACUI. It is awarded yearly to the individual whose work, over a period of at least five years, has done the most to benefit the region and the organization.

Connelly, according to one source, was nominated for the award by "a number of people across the region."



▲ UMass Lowell Director of Student Activities **Mary Connelly**, shown here (top row, center) at a Headstart gathering earlier this year, was recently named winner of the ACUI regional Distinguished Service Award.

Promotions Appointments

Promotions

Alberta K. Cavanaugh, assistant director of Financial Aid, from staff assistant.

Ann Marie Ciaraldi, senior associate director of Residence Life, from associate director.

Nancy A. Desjardins, accounting supervisor in the Research Foundation, from staff accountant.

Appointments

Karen A. Anderson, technical services coordinator in Continuing Studies and Corporate Education, from exchange server administrator at Avaya Inc. in Acton.

Gregory Bernier, institutional security officer in University Police, from Bulkmatic.

Stephanie J. Harlen, technical implementation coordinator, operations manager in Information Technology, from system manager in Administrative Computing.

Anne R. Lowenthal, director of gift planning and college development officer in University Advancement, from marketing manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Todd W. MacFadden, education and training associate in the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, from training specialist in the Research Foundation.

Sucharita Roy, postdoctoral research associate in the Research Foundation, from graduating class.

Laurie M. Tirado, coordinator of Honors Program and Advising in the Centers for Learning, from regional category manager for Equiva Services, LLC.

Michelle L. Vercellin, staff assistant in the Research Foundation, from part-time secretary in Chemistry.

Weiping Zhen, instructional media developer in Continuing Studies and Corporate Education, from C-SPAN in Washington, D.C.

A New Home Within Walking Distance Through Housing Incentive Program

Cheryl West walks to work now—sometimes twice a day.

When the projects back up at the Center for Family, Work and Community, and she's going to be working well past dinnertime, West walks out into the evening and over to her new home in the Centralville neighborhood of Lowell. There she fixes herself some dinner, takes a few minutes to decompress, and heads back to the office, fed and refreshed.

"Oh, I love it," she says of her new home, a two-story colonial on West L Street. She discovered the place through the Homebuyer Incentive Program, a home-ownership and improvement deal developed by the Lowell Plan, a nonprofit economic development organization. Through the program, employees of UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, Lowell General and Saints

Memorial Hospitals can receive a benefits package when buying their first home. The benefits include a no-interest, deferred loan for the down payment, some grant money toward the purchase, and "enhancement funds" for fixing up the place.

The larger goal is to bring stability to middle-income neighborhoods in the city, where the eligible houses are located. That stability comes in the form of homeowners like West.

"I wasn't really looking in that neighborhood," West says—not until she discovered the West L Street house through the program. Within eight weeks, she was moved in.

Though West has woven some home improvements into her unpacking process, she says the place was in excellent shape when she moved in: new plumbing, electrical wiring, insulation, windows, and vinyl siding.



▲ **Cheryl West**, a community consultant in the Center for Family, Work and Community, stands on the steps her new home in Centralville. West bought the house through the Lowell-based Homebuyer Incentive Program, and received a no-interest, deferred loan for the down payment, as well as other benefits.

"Nonetheless, I'm putting my own stamp on it," she says. Her next project: exposing the old wood floors beneath the kitchen tiles.

In the meantime, the bells at St. Casimir's church, on nearby Lakeview Avenue, ring through the neighborhood as West makes the short walk home for dinner on the long days.

"I just take a break, have a meal, put my feet up," she says, "then I'm ready for the next round."

Calendar of Events

Saturday, Nov. 24

Hockey, vs. Army, 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Sunday, Nov. 25

Women's Basketball, vs. St. Rose, 2 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Men's Basketball, vs. St. Rose, 4 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Monday, Nov. 26

Seminar, "Chinese Enterprises Responses to Globalization," by Ed Steinfield, professor, Sloan School of Management, MIT, noon, O'Leary Hall, Room 500M.

Concert, Chamber Ensemble, Prof. David Martins, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Hall.

Wednesday, Nov. 28

Art Gallery Reception and Silent Auction, "Paper Prayers Exhibit," 3 to 6 p.m., Dugan Gallery, Dugan Hall, Broadway Street, Lowell. Gallery hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Boston Pediatric Aids Projects and the September 11 Fund. Exhibit continues through Dec. 7.

Physics Colloquium, "Bioinformatics: A Physics Perspective," by Prof. Val Bykoski, 4 p.m., Olney 428.

Thursday, Nov. 29

Concert, Studio Orchestra, Prof. Walter Platt, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 1

Hockey, vs. Boston University, 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Sunday, Dec. 2

Men's Basketball, vs. New York Tech, 2 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 3-4

Performance, STARTS Educational Field Trip Series, "The Mystery of King Tut," grades 4-6, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Durgin Hall.

Monday, Dec. 3

Lecture, "Labor Market Integration and Workforce Development: Beyond Community Career Ladders," by William Mass and Hal Salzman, noon, O'Leary Hall, Room 500M.

Concert, Wind Ensemble, Prof. David Martins, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.

Tuesday, Dec. 4

Women's Basketball, vs. Franklin Pierce, 5:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Concert, Small Jazz Ensemble, Prof. Walter Platt, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.

Readings and Reception, Celebration for the launch of "The Bridge Review: Merrimack Valley Culture", a Web-based culture magazine, 7 p.m., O'Leary Library.

Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 5-7

Training, Emergency responder training courses, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wannalancit Mill. For information, call (978) 934-3197.

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Men's Basketball, vs. Franklin Pierce, 7:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Thursday, Dec. 6

Concert, Chamber Orchestra, prof. Kay Roberts, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.

Sunday, Dec. 9

Concert, Graduate Recital, Brian Ellingboe, saxophone, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Training, Hazardous waste site refresher course, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wannalancit Mill. For information, call (978) 934-3197.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Chancellor's Open Hours, staff, 2 to 3 p.m.; students, 3 to 4 p.m., faculty; 4 to 5 p.m.; Trustees' Room, Cumnock Hall.

Men's Basketball, vs. Southern Connecticut, 7:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK. Concert, Concert Band, Daniel Lutz, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Concert, Undergraduate Recital, Ben Ricker, piano, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall.

Lecture, Lois Gibbs, organizer of the Love Canal Homeowners Association and founder of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, 1 to 3 p.m., Cumnock Hall.

Friday, Dec. 14

Final exams begin.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Art Gallery Reception, Fall 2001 BFA Candidates Senior Thesis Work, 2 to 5 p.m., University and Dugan galleries. Gallery hours: Monday through Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. Exhibit continues through Jan. 12.

Sunday, Dec. 16

Performance, Discovery Series, "A Christmas Carol," best for ages 5 and up, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Durgin Hall. To order tickets, call (978) 934-4444.

Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 17-18

Performance, STARTS Educational Field Trip Series, "A Christmas Carol," grades K-4, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Durgin Hall. To order tickets, call (978) 934-4444.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Concert, Graduate Recital, Timothy Peng, piano, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall.

Friday, Dec. 21

Final exams end; residence halls close at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 29

Women's Basketball, vs. New York Tech, 2 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Clarification:

Sucharita Roy is an exchange research visitor from the University of Delhi, working in the Center for Advanced Materials, and was one of six finalists for the ICI award from the American Chemical Society.

Retired Professor Honored by NH Governor

UMass Lowell Professor Emeritus Rawn Spearman, formerly of the Music Department, has been announced as winner of the Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure award, one of seven Governor's Arts Awards bestowed semi-yearly in New Hampshire.

Spearman, a Nashua resident, and his six fellow recipients received their honors from New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen at a Nov. 9 ceremony at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, where each received an original work of art commissioned by the State Arts Council.

The Governor's Arts Awards are intended to recognize the efforts of New Hampshire artists in such areas as arts education, arts patronage, folk heritage and lifetime achievement in the arts.



▲ Professor Emeritus Rawn Spearman

Did you know...

that the campus grounds were used as a U.S. Army training camp during WWI?

For Extra Credit...

In what year was the Student Army Training Corps established?

The SATC was formed in the fall of 1918, comprising 124 day students.



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